

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2006
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Roger Klingler, Scottsdale, Chair	Phoenix: Robert Hollander
Avondale: Greg Stack	Surprise: Rich Williams Sr.
Buckeye: Scott Lowe for Lucky Roberts	Tempe: David McNeil
#Chandler: Robert Goff for Jacqueline Strong	Maricopa County: Ken James for John Power
*El Mirage: Michael Salisbury	*Pinnacle West Capital: John Boyer
*Gilbert: Lonnie Frost	*Salt River Project: Ray Hedrick
Glendale: Lawrence Brotman for Chris Ochs	*U of A Cooperative Extension: Patrick Clay
Goodyear: David Iwanski	*Citizen Representative: Eugene Jensen
#Mesa: Bill Haney	
#Peoria: Kris Budak for Stephen Bontrager	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Julie Finke	Element Homes: Michael Cronin
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Edwina Vogan	Element Homes: Mike Kocourek
City of Glendale: Ken Reedy	JF Properties: Jim Condit
Town of Buckeye: Lucky Roberts	JF Properties: Keith Watkins
Town of Buckeye: Damon Dequenne	Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering: Duong Do
Town of Buckeye: Steven Borst	Pacific Environmental Resources Corporation: Steven Owen
Beus Gilbert: Paul Gilbert	Wood Patel: Jerry Copeland
Beus Gilbert: Felipe Zubia	Glennie Reporting Services: Janet Hauck
Camp Dresser & McKee: Doug Kobrick	Maricopa Association of Governments: Julie Hoffman
CMX: Sheila Logan	Maricopa Association of Governments: Ann Wimmer
CSA Engineering: John Tyldesley	

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee was conducted on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Roger Klingler, City of Scottsdale, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Robert Goff, City of Chandler, Bill Haney, City of Mesa, and Kris Budak, City of Peoria, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. Agenda Announcements

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for member agencies to report on activities of interest in their agencies.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG or items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. No members of the public indicated that they wished to address the Committee.

4. Approval of the March 6, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the March 6, 2006 meeting. Ken James, Maricopa County, moved and David McNeil, City of Tempe, seconded, and the motion to approve the March 6, 2006 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

5. Public Hearing - Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendments for the Service Area Expansion of the Litchfield Park Service Company Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities and the Town of Buckeye Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities

Chair Klingler opened the Public Hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendments for the Service Area Expansion of the Litchfield Park Service Company (LPSCo) Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities and the Town of Buckeye Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities. He indicated that the hearing would begin with a briefing on the projects, followed by an opportunity for hearing participants to make comments on the draft 208 plan amendments for the public record. He added that a Court Reporter was present to provide an official record of the hearing and written comments were also welcome. Chair Klingler invited members of the public wishing to provide comments to fill out a yellow card and submit it to MAG staff.

Jerry Copeland, Wood Patel, gave a brief overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Service Area Expansion of the Litchfield Park Service Company Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities. The Town of Buckeye, City of Glendale, and Maricopa County have expressed interest in the provision of sewer service by the LPSCo Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities located in the Goodyear Municipal Planning Area to developments within their planning areas. The facilities are identified in the current MAG 208 Plan with reserve capacity to accommodate the sewer service needs of these developments. Mr. Copeland presented the municipal planning areas, the current LPSCo service area and the proposed expansion area.

Chair Klingler commented on questions raised at the last meeting. He asked if discussions with the Arizona Corporation Commission have taken place or are still underway. Mr. Copeland responded that discussions are still underway. He indicated that the hearing has been conducted and that there

are some details still to be worked out. Chair Klingler asked if the discussions that were to be held with the Arizona American Water Company have taken place or are underway also. Mr. Copeland responded that discussions have taken place. He added that there is no resolution yet, however it will be an ongoing process between the Arizona American Water Company and LPSCo.

Bob Hollander, City of Phoenix, inquired if the Committee can recommend approval of the amendment despite the status of the meetings that are currently being held between the Arizona American Water Company and LPSCo. Chair Klingler replied that the Committee has that ability. Mr. Copeland stated that the agreement between the Arizona American Water Company and LPSCo is not a requirement of Maricopa County. He added that both entities have a Certificate of Convenience & Necessity (CC&N) for their service areas and have a right to operate as they currently do. However, it has been recognized by Maricopa County and everyone involved that it would be a good idea to eliminate the Russell Ranch Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Copeland stated that Maricopa County has requested and the applicant has agreed to pursue negotiations with the Arizona American Water Company to service the area. He added that capacity for the Russell Ranch Plant service area is in the pipeline and could easily be served. It is just a matter of the Arizona American Water Company and LPSCo coming to an agreement over the Arizona American Water Company giving up their CC&N and expanding the CC&N of LPSCo to incorporate the service area.

Sheila Logan, CMX, provided a brief overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities. She discussed the existing and planned water reclamation facilities in the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area and mentioned the population projections for the Town of Buckeye. Ms. Logan discussed the service areas for the Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities. She indicated that there are no private wastewater providers in the vicinity. Ms. Logan provided an overview of the wastewater collection system, treatment technology, population, and phasing of the Anthem at Sun Valley South Facility. The plant would have an ultimate capacity of 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The effluent would be reused for turf and open space irrigation and groundwater recharge, with an emergency Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit discharge to a unnamed wash tributary to the White Tanks Wash. Flow from the White Tanks Wash would be retained in the FRS No. 1 with a limited hydrologic connection to the Hassayampa River. The permit process was discussed and the anticipated project schedule was presented. She indicated that Pulte Home Corporation would finance the design, build, and start up operation of the Anthem at Sun Valley South Facility and the ownership and operation would be transferred to the Town of Buckeye.

Ms. Logan then gave a brief overview of the Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facility. She discussed the wastewater collection system, population, treatment technology, and phasing of the facility. Ms. Logan stated that the Tartesso East Facility would have an ultimate capacity of 9.6 mgd. The effluent would be reused for potential golf course/turf irrigation, potential lakes and groundwater recharge, with an emergency AZPDES Permit discharge to an unnamed wash. Flow from the wash would be retained in the FRS No. 1 with limited hydrologic connection to the Hassayampa River. The permitting requirements and the anticipated project schedule were also discussed. Ms. Logan indicated that financing for the Tartesso East Facility would be provided by Stardust Communities for the design, build, and start up operation, and the ownership and operation would be transferred to the Town of Buckeye.

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for Committee questions regarding the projects. He also stated that members of the public wishing to speak should fill out a card and submit it to MAG staff. He noted that no public comment cards had been received. Chair Klingler closed the public hearing and requested that the Court Reporter end the transcription.

6. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Service Area Expansion of the Litchfield Park Service Company Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for questions from the Committee and indicated that the Committee is requested to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Service Area Expansion of the Litchfield Park Service Company Palm Valley and Sarival Water Reclamation Facilities. Rich Williams, City of Surprise, moved to recommend approval of the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. David Iwanski, City of Goodyear, seconded and it was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

7. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities

Chair Klingler provided an opportunity for questions from the Committee and indicated that the Committee is requested to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Town of Buckeye Anthem at Sun Valley South and Tartesso East Water Reclamation Facilities. Mr. Hollander moved to recommend approval of the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. Mr. McNeil seconded and it was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

8. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility

Paul Gilbert, Beus Gilbert, gave a briefing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). He indicated that Maricopa County is requesting this 208 amendment since the project is located in unincorporated Maricopa County. The financing for the design, build, and start up operation and maintenance of the facility would be provided by JF Properties, with Balterra Sewer Corporation owning and operating the facility.

Mr. Gilbert indicated that the Balterra Sewer Corporation will be a private utility company regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission which will issue a Certificate of Convenience of Necessity defining the initial area to be served. The Balterra Sewer Corporation will operate the facility in accordance with an Aquifer Protection Permit and AZPDES Permit to be issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). He added that the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility is at the 70 percent Design Phase, has received an Arizona Department of Water Resources availability notice for groundwater, and has submitted an Aquifer Protection Permit application with ADEQ. Mr. Gilbert indicated that Balterra is a 1,000+ acre development and is just one of the developments that would be served by the facility. The ultimate capacity of the Balterra WWTF would be 15 mgd.

Mr. Gilbert gave a brief overview of the boundaries for the North Tonopah Wastewater Planning Area. He mentioned that the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility would service the North

Tonopah Southeast Planning Area. Mr. Gilbert mentioned that the Master Development Plan is currently being reviewed by Maricopa County and it is anticipated that a hearing will be scheduled before the Planning Commission soon. Chair Klingler inquired about the planning area. Mr. Gilbert described the planning area boundaries and indicated that the Maricopa County boundary is further west. He emphasized that the facility provides for a regional solution and that there is an opportunity for other development to be serviced by the Balterra WWTF. He stated that the facility would bring much needed sewer service to this unincorporated area of Maricopa County and will eliminate the existing Ruth Fisher Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Gilbert mentioned that the Saddle Mountain Unified School District #90 provided a letter regarding sewer service by the Balterra Sewer Corporation. He stated that the Balterra WWTF would not only serve the Balterra development but also other areas, including the School District. He added that by 2026, estimated population of the North Tonopah Southeast Planning Area will be approximately 150,000 people.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the Balterra WWTF will be designed in phases capable of expanding to accommodate the ultimate build-out of the service area. In the North Tonopah Southeast Planning Area, wastewater flows by gravity to the treatment plant. He indicated that there will be sufficient setbacks, effective use of the land, and the facility would be close to the discharge location. Mr. Gilbert also discussed the status of the Balterra Sewer Corporation.

Jim Condit, JF Properties, gave a brief overview of the design for the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility. He indicated that it would be a Membrane Bioreactor Facility, and include biological oxidation of organic matter, biological nutrient removal, and treatment utilizing MBR process & UV disinfection with 12 percent sodium hypochlorite backup. He added that the facility would meet ADEQ Title 18 Class A+ Effluent Standards and EPA Class B Biosolids requirements. Mr. Condit discussed the schematic of the Balterra WWTF and how the plant would operate. He indicated that Maricopa County was very specific about having a master plan for the reuse of wastewater. Mr. Condit presented the permitting for the facility and the anticipated project schedule. He provided an overview of the effluent disposal of which the primary disposal would be potential irrigation of landscape and parks, groundwater recharge, and onsite reuse for processed water. Secondary disposal would be an AZPDES Permit discharge into an adjacent wash (T2N-R6W-30W as identified in the Palo Verde Watershed Zone A Flood Delineation Study).

Chair Klingler asked if JF Properties currently operates any wastewater treatment plants. Mr. Gilbert responded JF Properties has a lot of experience in Colorado. He indicated that JF Properties will have a certified operator for the plant. Chair Klingler inquired about the closest incorporated area to the Balterra WWTF service area. Mr. Gilbert responded that Buckeye is the closest incorporated area. Chair Klingler asked if the facility would be operated by the developer rather than a municipality. Mr. Gilbert responded that is correct.

Mr. Iwanski asked if the request for a CC&N is for only the Balterra development. Mr. Gilbert stated that the current CC&N application is for only the Ruth Fisher School District and Balterra development. Chair Klingler inquired about the number of master planned communities for the service area. Mr. Gilbert responded that there are five or more in the service area. Chair Klingler asked which properties are owned by JF Properties. Mr. Gilbert replied that JF Properties only owns the Balterra development. Mr. Condit stated that there are three planning areas that could be served

by three regional plants with capacities ranging between 5-15 mgd per plant. He added that this amendment is for only the North Tonopah Southeast Planning Area. Mr. Williams asked if the service area would overlap or conflict with any existing wastewater service areas. Mr. Condit stated that there is an existing small plant in the Balterra WWTF service area for the Ruth Fisher School District. The Ruth Fisher School Wastewater Treatment Plant would be eliminated and the school would be serviced by the Balterra WWTF. Mr. Gilbert referred to the letter from the School District that was included in the amendment.

Mr. Hollander inquired if the Tonopah High School would be included in the flow from the Ruth Fisher School. Mr. Gilbert responded that the Balterra WWTF would serve the Ruth Fisher School District, which includes the High School. Mr. Condit indicated that the Ruth Fisher School District can be served by gravity to the Balterra WWTF. Lawrence Brotman, City of Glendale, inquired about how the facility would dispose of biosolids. Mr. Condit responded that the current plan is to take the biosolids to a local landfill. Mr. James stated that currently the Ruth Fisher School District uses reclaimed water on its sports fields. He asked if reclaimed water would be returned to the school for this purpose once the flow is sent to the Balterra WWTF. Mr. Condit replied yes.

Chair Klingler recognized public comment from Julie Finke, ADEQ. She requested clarification on a statement made by Mr. Gilbert about having received ADEQ approval for the 208 amendment and the effluent disposal. Chair Klingler responded that Mr. Gilbert was providing an update on a 208 amendment that had previously been recommended for approval by the Committee. He was not referring to the Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendment for the Balterra WWTF. Mr. Gilbert confirmed that was correct.

Chair Klingler requested a motion to authorize that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Balterra Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Hollander moved and Mr. James seconded and it was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

9. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area 4 Regional Water Reclamation Facility

Steve Owen, Pacific Environmental Resources Corporation, gave an overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area (SPA) 4 Regional Water Reclamation Facility. He discussed Sunhaven and other developments in the Surprise Special Planning Area 4. Mr. Owen indicated that financing for the design, build, and start up operation and maintenance of the facility would be provided by Sunhaven 1 LLC, and ownership and operation would be transferred to the City of Surprise. Mr. Owen gave a brief overview of the City of Surprise Special Planning Areas 1-6. The SPA 4 Regional WRF will be sized to handle the Sunhaven Master Planned Community and other developments within the Special Planning Area 4. By 2020, the estimated population of the SPA 4 WRF Service Area will be approximately 64,233 people. The facility will be designed in phases capable of expanding to accommodate the ultimate build-out of the surrounding development with an ultimate capacity of 8.0 mgd. Mr. Owen also discussed the SPA 4 Regional WRF site selection.

Mr. Owen stated that the facility would be a Hybrid Sequential Batch Reactor with biological oxidation of organic matter, biological nutrient removal, and tertiary treatment utilizing disk

filtration & UV disinfection. The plant would meet ADEQ Title 18 Class A+ Effluent Standards and EPA Class B Biosolids requirements. He also stated that the plant would be an enclosed treatment system and would require several permits. He presented the anticipated project schedule for the design, construction and start-up of the facility. Primary effluent disposal would include a percolation basin, potential irrigation of golf courses and parks, onsite reuse for processed water, and potential lake source water. The secondary disposal would include discharge into adjacent recharge basins, underground storage and recovery, and an AZPDES Permit discharge.

Mr. James commented that Maricopa County took a great deal of effort reviewing the SPA 4 and SPA 5 projects. He indicated that Maricopa County compared the Sunhaven development to the overall City of Surprise planning for SPA 4. It appears that the Sunhaven development takes up about 10 percent of the land area of SPA 4 but proposes to serve 35 percent of the population for SPA 4 and proposes to incorporate 51 percent of the equivalent dwelling units. Mr. James stated that Maricopa County commented during its review that if the rest of SPA 4 develops to the same density as the Sunhaven development, the treatment plant would be under sized. He mentioned that the response was that the City of Surprise has the power to control the development within SPA 4. Mr. James stated that the Committee needs to know how the City of Surprise is going to manage the development in SPA 4 to make sure that this treatment plant is adequately sized for the future.

Mr. Williams stated that General Plans are the road maps for the cities. The City of Surprise General Plan 2020 was approved by voters in 2001 and the zoning and densities that are depicted in the 2020 Plan are being used. He indicated that the City is at the midpoint of the 10 year planning period for the Plan. Mr. Williams stated that through 2006, the City of Surprise Community and Development Department will be updating the Surprise General Plan. He mentioned that there is some built-in capacity at the SPA 4 facility site to date and there are other options at existing sites or in addition to acquiring supplemental land to add to the regional site as well as the less desirable option of providing another facility. The City is working with the developers of Sunhaven to look at the potential of acquiring additional land.

Mr. Williams also stated that there are viable options for expansion if needed. He indicated that the City does not anticipate build-out being a problem. He mentioned that one option would be to limit development in the area if there is no viable wastewater solution. Chair Klingler asked if the rest of SPA 4 will develop as dense as Sunhaven. Mr. Williams responded that the information Mr. James presented was correct that the Sunhaven project and some of the other developments coming forward have higher densities than the current General Plan had calculated. However, there are offsets in those areas. The BNSF Railroad has purchased a large tract of land in the area and that will be associated with a railroad and transportation yard which would not be as water or wastewater intensive. The City needs to mature the plan and move forward into the future. Mr. Williams stated he is confident that there will be viable and reasonable solutions. Chair Klingler commented that it is possible for another plant in the area, but that is the least desirable option. Mr. Williams replied that is correct.

Mr. Williams commented that the City took the entire General Plan area for Surprise, which is approximately 300 square miles, and looked at it from all different sized service areas, from a single 300 square miles to the six service areas which are now in place. The City also looked at subdividing into smaller sewer service areas, but it is cumbersome and problematic in concert with the comments that Maricopa County has had trying to make regionalized service within the

constraints that exist today. Mr. Williams stated that six sub-sewer service areas within in a 300 square mile planning area is not an unrealistic expectation.

Mr. Owen commented on the number of wastewater treatment plants in Maricopa County. He mentioned that the City of Surprise has one existing facility and that this 208 Plan Amendment for SPA 4 is an effort to plan for the future and grow wisely. He added that the special planning areas have regionalized facilities in areas where the reclaimed water can be reused and recharged. Chair Klingler inquired if the Maricopa County intent is to try to have the right sized plants to serve a regional area beyond just a subdivision. Mr. James responded that Maricopa County does not want multiple plants within one planning area. He stated that Maricopa County asked the consultant go back and determine how much flow the site that has been identified can handle. Mr. James mentioned that according to Mr. Owen, about 5 mgd is needed to meet the SPA 4 requirements. However, today the facility is identified with an ultimate capacity of 8 mgd and in previous discussions it was stated that the site could handle 10 mgd. Mr. James stated that Maricopa County is satisfied with the buffer in capacity that the site can handle.

Mr. Hollander commented on the proliferation of water reclamation facilities and stated that he acknowledges the desire to keep effluent in the area for reuse and recharge. Mr. Owen discussed the average wastewater treatment plant capacity and site acreage of facilities located within Maricopa County. Greg Stack, City of Avondale, commented on the inclusion of the nitrification/denitrification calculations in the Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendment.

Chair Klingler requested a motion to authorize that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area 4 Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Iwanski moved and Mr. Stack seconded and it was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

10. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area 5 Regional Water Reclamation Facility

Mr. Owen gave an overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area 5 Regional Water Reclamation Facility. He discussed the various developments in Special Planning Area 5. Financing for the design, build and start up operation and maintenance of the facility would be provided by Elliott Homes, Whittman 510 LLC, and Anderson Land, and ownership and operation would be transferred to the City of Surprise. Mr. Owen indicated that the facility would be sized to handle the Elliott, Anderson, and Whittman Master Planned Communities and other developments within Special Planning Area 5. He added that SPA 5 is unique in that there is already a lot of homes in the area on septic systems. By 2020, the estimated population of the SPA 5 WRF Service Area will be approximately 49,770 people. The SPA 5 Regional WRF will be designed in phases capable of expanding to accommodate the ultimate build-out of the surrounding development with an ultimate capacity of 8.0 mgd.

Mr. Owen discussed the SPA 5 Regional WRF site selection. He indicated that the facility would be a Hybrid Sequential Batch Reactor with biological oxidation of organic matter, biological nutrient removal and tertiary treatment utilizing disk filtration & UV disinfection. The plant would meet ADEQ Title 18 Class A+ Effluent Standards and EPA Class B Biosolids requirements. He stated that the plant would be an enclosed treatment system and would require several permits. He

presented the anticipated project schedule and indicated that the primary disposal would include a percolation basin, potential irrigation of golf courses and parks, onsite reuse for process water, and potential lake source water. The secondary disposal would include discharge into adjacent recharge basins, underground storage and recovery, and an AZPDES Permit discharge.

Mr. Stack asked if the homes currently on septic systems in SPA 5 would be connected to the Surprise SPA 5 Regional WRF. Mr. Williams responded that the existing homes on septic systems are anticipated to be connected to the system. Mr. Iwanski asked if Maricopa County had similar concerns with SPA 5 as SPA 4. Mr. James responded that the comments were similar in that 10 percent of SPA 5 was being planned out to support 66 percent of the equivalent dwelling units. Mr. Williams stated that in addition to the comments he made for SPA 4, SPA 5 has more early development and a percentage of land occupied by the Luke Auxiliary Training Field. He added that SPA 5 is more broken up than some of the other planning areas and would not lend itself as readily to the density of SPA 4.

Acting Chair Hollander requested a motion to authorize that a public hearing be conducted on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Surprise Special Planning Area 5 Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Brotman moved and Mr. Stack seconded and it was unanimously passed through a roll call vote by the Committee.

11. Town of Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Planning Efforts

Steven Borst, Town of Buckeye, gave an overview of the Town of Buckeye wastewater treatment planning efforts. Mr. Borst stated that he would address the questions about the number of wastewater treatment plants that have come before the Committee and whether Buckeye is going to centralize the plants or essentially decommission some of them. He indicated that there has been interest in the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area by private entities and/or utilities to develop their own service areas. Mr. Borst provided an overview of the history of the Town of Buckeye. The Town was incorporated in 1926 at 440 acres and had the first water desalting plant in the nation in 1962. The Town of Buckeye is in transition to accommodate new residential and commercial development.

Mr. Borst stated that the Town is incorporating a regional concept in regards to wastewater treatment plants. Regional wastewater treatment plants are being constructed for the growth and development of the area. He mentioned that when developing a regional approach to wastewater, staff needs to be onboard to accommodate the new facilities. The Town has hired three engineers within the last four months. Mr. Borst discussed the Town of Buckeye staff, including the Public Works Director and Public Works Utilities Manager. He indicated that Buckeye is meeting the goal of the Clean Water Act by effectively eliminating point source discharge of pollution to Waters of the United States. Many of the plants in Buckeye only discharge to Waters of the United States by default.

Mr. Borst discussed the benefits of regionalization which include: elimination of point source discharges to Waters of the United States; preservation of watersheds and aquifers through the reuse and recharge of effluent in the area of water withdrawal and effluent generation; cost effective and beneficial use of effluent by the elimination of the need to transport effluent long distances; elimination of large sewers and treatment plants as a significant point of pollution, failure or security concern; lower capital investment; and location of treatment facilities where needed.

Mr. Borst mentioned planned and ongoing studies. He stated that Dr. David Stencil, University of Washington, will examine the SBR systems in Buckeye for modification to continuous high rate flow systems; evaluate effluent TKN to identify possible nitrogen removal processes including MLE; and establish design recommendations for demonstrated performance objectives with cost comparisons.

Mr. Borst discussed the ongoing Water Resource Management Studies and indicated that this area will be the focus of the new water resources hydrologist position. He indicated that the Town of Buckeye has a Request for Qualifications published for a consultant to establish wastewater treatment plant planning areas (WPAs) for the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area. The WPAs will be established for existing, proposed and future wastewater treatment plants. Mr. Borst stated that the Buckeye Municipal Planning Area is 660+ square miles and 220+ square miles are currently incorporated. He presented the existing, proposed, and future Town of Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Mr. Borst indicated that once the WPAs are determined, the Town of Buckeye will be coming to MAG to request 208 Plan Amendments for future facilities. He stated that the Town is proceeding with the regionalized concept and that there are no plans to decommission any of the plants.

Mr. Stack asked if a master plan will be developed for the wastewater portion of the utilities for the Town of Buckeye. Mr. Borst responded that there are currently several wastewater master plans for the Town of Buckeye and this is more for establishing the wastewater treatment plant planning areas. He added that Buckeye will have a wastewater master plan for each WPA. Scott Lowe, Town of Buckeye, commented on looking at the big picture and the challenges of wastewater treatment planning for such a large area.

Acting Chair Hollander commented on the unique challenges in Buckeye and mentioned a new concept called asset management. It is particularly germane to larger, older facilities that have typical centralized plants with large lines, but may be worth researching to see how it may impact areas looking at regionalization versus centralization. Mr. Williams commented on the number of proposed plants in the Town of Buckeye and asked if consolidation would be pursued. Mr. Borst commented that consolidation is not planned at this time, but it may be considered once the WPAs are determined. Mr. Williams asked for clarification that Buckeye is not discounting the fact that there is a potential for consolidation, but is just not committing to consolidation today. Mr. Borst stated that is correct.

Acting Chair Hollander asked if there were any question or comments from the Committee. There being none Acting Chair Hollander thanked the Committee for participating and called for adjournment of the meeting.